

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification, page 1 and 2, as follows:

This invention relates to a tap.

~~One aspect of the invention concerns the provision of a safety button which needs to be operated before a tap handle can be used to dispense liquid therefrom.~~

~~This feature can be incorporated into a novel tap which is arranged to dispense chilled water and boiling water (or near boiling) from a boiling water unit.~~

Q1 ~~Other aspects of the invention concern details of the way in which the valve assembly is constructed and functions.~~

~~In accordance with one aspect of the invention there is provided a tap including a tap body within which is located a valve, an operating handle mounted on the body and coupled to the valve, a security button which is interlocked with the handle and/or valve, the arrangement being such that the valve can only be opened after activation of the security button.~~

~~Preferably, the handle is mounted for rotation such that rotational movement from a central position in a first direction causes delivery of a first liquid from the valve and rotation of the handle in a second direction, opposite to the first, causes delivery of the second liquid, subject to operation of the security button.~~

~~Preferably further, in the second position, activation of the security button permits rotation of the handle about an orthogonal axis to allow delivery of the second liquid.~~

~~In accordance with another aspect of the invention there is provided a dual valve having a pair of valve elements which are mounted for rotation relative to one another and wherein one of the valve elements includes an inlet port and an outlet port and the other of the valve elements includes a recess, the arrangement being such that when the valve elements are rotated so that the recess overlies, at least in part, both of said ports, fluid can flow into one of the ports through the recess and out of the other port. Preferably, the valve elements are ceramic.~~

~~The invention also provides a tap having a handle which is mounted for biaxial rotation, the tap including a valve assembly which includes a plunger and means for coupling the plunger to the handle so that the plunger rotates with the handle about one axis but is unseated from a valve seat when the handle is rotated about an orthogonal axis.~~

~~The invention also provides a tap having a valve assembly, the valve assembly being located within a fixed sleeve, the valve assembly including first and second sleeve components which are interlocked together and have therebetween a diaphragm and means for causing selective displacement of the diaphragm from a valve seat to thereby open and close the valve.~~

It is known to provide mixing taps which have inputs from different sources, such as cold and hot water supplies. Normally, these are mixed in accordance with the position of a handle. In some arrangements the handle is arranged for biaxial rotation. European Patent No. EPO 933573 is an example of a tap of this sort. In this arrangement the tap has hot and cold water inputs and by operation of a biaxially rotatable handle, mixed water from the inputs can be supplied to a faucet or to a sprayer. The handle is provided with a lever arm which can latch with the valve body so that the user, on operation of the lever, can rotate the handle about a horizontal axis in order to select water at a predetermined temperature to be delivered to the sprayer.

The object of the present invention is to provide a tap which has two inputs but which separately delivers water to two outlets without any mixing and further to provide a security

element which needs to be activated before fluid is delivered from the second outlet. This capability enables the tap to be connected to a hot water boiler and the security element improves the safety of the tap because it minimises the possibility that boiling water is inadvertently dispensed from the tap.

According to the present invention there is provided a tap including:

a tap body;

a valve assembly located within the body;

an operating handle mounted on the body and coupled to the valve assembly;

al the body having a first part spherical bearing surface and the handle being provided with a complementary bearing surface whereby the handle is capable of biaxial rotation about first and second axes relative to the tap body; wherein the valve assembly includes:

first valve means for controlling flow of a first liquid from a first inlet to a first outlet, the first valve means including a first valve element which opens when the handle is rotated from a closed position about said first axis in a first sense to first open position to permit flow of the first liquid through the valve assembly;

second valve means for controlling flow of a second liquid from a second inlet to a second outlet, the second valve means including a second valve element which opens when the handle has been rotated from said closed position about said first axis in a second sense opposite to said first sense to an active position and then rotated about said second axis; and

a security element having a locked position in which it prevents rotation of the handle about said second axis, the security element being such that it can be moved to an unlocked position when the handle is in said active position so that the handle can rotate about the second axis to a second open position to thereby permit flow of the second liquid through the valve assembly.